



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Elizabeth Taylor
Request-877645-cdb50dd5@whatdotheyknow.com

13 July 2022

Our reference: FOI2022071102

Dear Elizabeth Taylor

Freedom of Information Act - Request for Information

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2022. Your request for information was as follows:

- (1) The minimum number of points needed to be invited to interview, not including widening participation applicants.*
- (2) The number of applications received for 2021 entry (not including international students)*
- (3) The number of offers given to home students for 2021 entry.*

And if available could I receive answers regarding the following questions for 2022 entry?

- (1) The minimum number of points needed to be invited to interview, not including widening participation applicants.*
- (2) The number of applications received for 2022 entry (not including international students)*
- (3) The number of offers given to home students for 2022 entry.*

I have processed your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Lincoln Medical School is run in collaboration with and administered through the University of Nottingham who have provided the below information:

- 1) 28 was the combined score for A10L 2021 Entry to be invited to interview.
- 2) 583
- 3) 208

We consider the information you have asked for in relation to the current admissions intake is exempt under Section 43 of the FOIA 2000, Commercial Interests, as we believe that disclosure would harm the commercial interests of the University of Nottingham.

The University of Nottingham's Medical School is operating in a highly competitive environment, and in very challenging times.

Regulatory changes in recent years, such as the lifting of the cap on university places in England, have increased competition between institutions.

Universities all seek to recruit the best students from a limited pool of prospective UK and international applicants. The University must be able to participate freely and competitively in all its commercial activities and must protect its business activities.

As student recruitment is the core of our Business, this can be considered under both:

- Section 43(1) provides an exemption under FOIA for information which is a trade secret

Secretariat

- Section 43(2) exempts information whose disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

Responses to Freedom of Information requests are in the public domain and the disclosure of the requested information would be strategically useful to our competitors in the higher education sector in understanding the University's processes, and your request needs to be considered in the context of disclosure under competition legislation as well as under the Freedom of Information Act.

Releasing information for the current on-going application process will have a serious detrimental effect on university operations, giving both applicants and our competitors an unfair advantage of the application and interview processes and will potentially jeopardise future applications.

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. However, we will reconsider your request should you wish to re-submit this after the current admissions process has concluded.

I hope that the above information meets your requirements. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01522 886086 or by email at TMoss@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information, you can request a review by writing within 40 working days to:

Information Compliance
University of Lincoln
Brayford Pool
Lincoln
LN6 7TS

Email: compliance@lincoln.ac.uk

The University will respond to a request for review within 20 working days of receipt of the request.

Yours sincerely

Tim Moss
FOI Administrative Officer

Secretariat